

**Maryland Transportation Authority
Bay Bridge Reconstruction Advisory Group**

Meeting Summary: Final

Regular Meeting
Wednesday, April 6, 2011
MDTA Bay Bridge Police Building

PRESENT:

Jack Broderick, Chairman
Barbara Hitchings
Tracy Higgs
Tracy Schulz

Nick Deoudes
Barbara Spann Obert
Randy Landis

STATE HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION (SHA) Staff:

Barrett Kiedrowski

Jeff Wentz

MDTA STAFF:

Gail Moran
Kerry Brandt
Neil Jester
Mike Rice

Gordy Garrettson
Barry Kiedrowski
Derek Jones
Jennifer Williams

Call to Order

Chairman Jack Broderick called the meeting of the Bay Bridge Reconstruction Advisory Group (BBRAG) to order at 6:07 pm. He welcomed all attendees. Mr. Broderick especially welcomed Ms. Tracy Higgs, President/Owner of Logan Trucking in Centreville. Ms. Higgs is a new member and will represent the Maryland Motor Truck Association.

Minutes:

Barbara Hitchings moved approval of the minutes with amendments of the January 5, 2011 meeting. Nick Deoudes seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Bay Bridge activities:

Gordon Garrettson introduced Jennifer Williams. Ms. Williams is newly appointed Acting Deputy Administrator of the Bay Bridge.

Gordy Garrettson reported that the pop-up lane change designators have been restored. They were removed during the resurfacing and now have been placed back and are operational.

Toll booth exterior work and electrical repairs are beginning. On the westbound bridge, there will be closures on lanes 2 and 3 as rumble strips and reflectors are put in place.

Contractors will be on the eastbound span doing necessary patch work.

In the coming weeks, anchor pier fencing replacement work will begin on the westbound span. Plaza work also will be underway.

There will be changes in the traffic patterns during the summer months. Two-way operations on the westbound span currently are limited to Thursdays and Fridays. Staff are looking to expanding two-way operations to Mondays and Tuesdays as the summer approaches. The start of that service will depend on the numbers of vehicles crossing at a given day and, of course, weather conditions.

Mr. Garrettson also reported on engineering work on the Bridge. Work includes:

- Snooper inspections
- Lane signal work
- Painting of the girders under the ____ span is scheduled to beginWhen?
- Later this spring, contracts for overhead painting will be awarded Work will begin later this year.
- Overhead DMS signs are due later this year. The existing DMS at Cox Creek will be replaced and a new DMS will be installed about 1 mile north of MD 404 in Queen Anne's County near the Talbot County line. This work will not interfere with the MD 404 intersection work.
- Cable re-wrapping

Finally, Mr. Garrettson mentioned the upcoming Maryland Public Television (MPT) production on the Bay Bridge. Maryland Transportation Authority (MDTA) Board Member Walter Woodford and some MDTA Bay Bridge employees were interviewed for the production. The production will be shown on Monday, April 11 at 9 p.m. and repeated on Saturday, April 16.

Severn River Bridge study.

Barry Kiedrowski, Division Chief of Planning and Project Engineering, State Highway Administration, reported on a recent feasibility study on the US 50/301 Bridge across the Severn River. Mr. Kiedrowski indicated that current traffic delays can be four minutes westbound in the morning rush hour and seven minutes in the eastbound direction in the afternoon rush hour. The study encompassed an eight mile stretch of US 50/301 from I-97 to MD 179. Several options were examined and one option was forwarded to the SHA Administrator. Options include:

- Countraflow during heavy eastbound travel times.
- Install and use a movable barrier to better accommodate heavy traffic.
- Install a new permanent barrier for 4 eastbound lanes and 3 westbound lanes.
- Impose speed controls and variable speed limits.

A decision on which option to pursue is due this summer.

Legislative summary.

Gail Moran reported on legislation that was considered in the General Assembly during the 2011 session. A summary of the legislation was emailed to the group following the meeting..

Other Business:

Responding to questions from members, Ms. Moran reported that the MDTA Board is expected to propose increases in tolls in late May 2011. Currently, all tolls for all classes of vehicles, all facilities and all discount packages are under discussion. Public input will be taken over a 60 days period. At least 8 public hearings will be held.

Barbara Spann Obert asked whether Queen Anne's County has contacted the MDTA about the possibility of sewers being constructed on MD 8 on Kent Island. Ms. Obert said that public input is being sought and recommendations will be made in the coming months. She was told that neither MDTA nor SHA have been contacted by the County on this matter. Jeff Wentz, Assistant District Engineer for Traffic for SHA District 2, said that SHA is looking at some future changes to the MD 8 bridge over US 50/301 and the ramp intersections.

Next meeting.

The next meeting of the BBRAAG is scheduled for Wednesday, July 13, 2011. Information will be provided prior to the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:14 p.m.

*Submitted by,
Gail Moran*